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CEIRIOG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

Charles E. Salt, J.P., M.B., Ch.B.. (Chirk District)
Ian G. M. Firth, M.B., Ch.B.. (Llansilin District).

including

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

R. W. Aubrey, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A..

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1940.

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CEIRIOG RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Office,

CHIRK,

9th September 1941.

Mr Chairman and Gentlemen,

We have to present our second war time Annual Report for the year ended the 31st December 1940 which year has seen the cessation of most routine public health work as such and the change over from routine to emgerency work on such a scale as to effect a complete change in the normal work of your Health Department. Government Evacuation Schemes, Civil Defence in all its branches and multitudinous circulars, reports and returns for various government departments are now the order of the day replacing much of the ordinary peace time services.

We regret that this report has be to curtailed to such an extent as to preclude items on which we would like to report, but we bear in mind the need for strict economy in the use of paper and labour, and trust that we may at a future date be able to give details of at least some of the interesting and beneficial experiences of the year under review.

Infectious Diseases.

Apart from small outbreaks of Measles and Whooping Cough the district has been remarkably free from infectious diseases. When we consider the increase in population and many other health problems created by evacuation we consider the district has been fortunate in having such a low incidence of infectious disease.

The following table shows the number of cases notified and removed to hospital during the year.

Disease.	Notified.	Removed to hospital.
Scarlet Fever.	6	5
Diphtheria.	5	4
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	1	1
Measles.	43	Nil
Whooping Cough	13	Nil
Tuberculosis.-Pulmonary.	5	4
" Non "	2	Nil
Erysiplas.	1	Nil
Puerperal Fever	1	Nil

Water Supplies.

Chirk. Once again it has been fortunate that the quantity of water available from the springs at New Hall Meadow has been sufficient for the need of the area without having the pump either from the borehole or canal. The borehole was tested and kept in readiness for use should it have been necessary for any purpose.

Pandy. There has been considerable delay in completing this scheme due chiefly to the scarcity of labour, but the works were sufficiently far advanced to enable water to be used in June 1940 and in July Glynceiriog was connected with this scheme, and the existing scheme superseded. By the end of 1940 all the main works of the scheme were completed, but a number of details were outstanding. It is pleasing to be able to report than in spite of the difficulties encountered and other conditions due to war time risks there is every hope that the scheme will be complete within the estimated costs.

Other water supply schemes owned by the Council were satisfactory throughout the year. Samples of all supplies were taken on two occasions with good results.

The Llanrhaiadr Water Supply controlled by the Llanrhaiadr Joint Committee for Water Supply proved insufficient in quantity during the year and it was necessary to pump water from the River Rhaiadr near Tynyfedw and chlorinate at the point of intake. This emergency measure was continued for about eight weeks.

Sewerage. No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal were carried out during the year and the existing schemes were satisfactorily maintained.

Scavenging. The regional scavenging scheme continues to provide an efficient service for Chirk and the Glyn Valley the total cost of which for the year was £595. 8. 1

Llansilin and Llanrhaiadr are still scavenged under contract.

Housing. During 1940 housing works have been more or less at a standstill, no new houses having been erected and very little works carried out under the Housing Act 1936.

It has been necessary to take informal action in several cases of flagrant overcrowding due in all cases either to several families occupying one house or to householders accommodating more evacuees than could reasonably be allowed. All cases were satisfactorily settled with reporting to the Council.

Housing (Repairs) Account.

With rising prices and the difficulty of obtaining certain materials the maintenance of the housing estates in the district at a high standard presents a problem which it is difficult to solve, and the earnest hope is that the standard of maintenance will not fall to such an extent as to cause an acute problem in post-war years.

During 1940 the Council was able to complete a scheme for the installation of 84 new kitchen grates in Council houses. This in addition to storm damage to rainwater gutters etc. which cost the Council over £150 largely accounts for the heavy expenditure on this account.

Details of the income and expenditure to this accounts are as follows.-

No. of houses.	Total Rent Income. £	s	d	To Credit Repairs a/c. £	s	d	To Debit Repairs a/c £	s	d	Average cost per house.
239	4065	12	9	785	14	5	928.	11	4	£3. 17. 9

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During the year the Council has been urged by the Ministry of Health to undertake the immunisation of school children under 14 years of age against diphtheria, to prevent the possibility of an epidemic of this disease. This is one of the most beneficial discoveries of preventative medicine of recent years and we are very pleased that the Council has decided to take this matter up wholeheartedly. Although at the end of 1940 the scheme was in its very early stages we are pleased to report that up to the time of writing this report well over 70% of children of school age and under have been immunised against diphtheria. In the next Annual Report we hope to give further interesting figures on this subject.

Milk & Dairies Order, 1925.

The following table shows in brief the position of milk registrations during the year.

	Wholesale.	Retail.	Totals.
No. registered at 31.12.39	122	46	168
" removed during 1940	5	3	8
" added " "	22	6	28
Totals at 31st Dec. 1940	139	49	188

Of the above 10 are holders of "Accredited" Licences and a further 2 hold "Tuberculin Tested" Licences.

Salvage.

The Council has undertaken a salvage collection throughout the year the following materials having been collected.-

Material.	Weight. Tons.	cwts.	qrs.	Number.	Proceeds of Sale. £.	s.	d
Waste Paper.	15	12	2		41	14	5
Bones	3	2	0		6	11	0
Bottles				2006	5	5	7
Jars				685	1	1	4
Rags		6	2		1	0	3
Scrap Iron	16	16	3		41	17	4
Scrap Iron	24	17	0		Given to Red Cross Agriculture Fund.		

In addition to the above there have been collections of waste paper at Llansilin (by Dr L. Wynne Davies) and at Llangedwyn & Llanrhaiadr (by the W.V.S) the weights of which are not available.

At the close of the year the following quantities (approx) were in stock and not disposed of-

Paper	1½ tons.	Scrap Iron	12 tons
Bottles	1000	Jars	400
Rags	3 cwts		

Government Evacuation Scheme.

Although in 1940 there was no official large scale evacuation into this district a comparatively large number of evacuees were dealt with, particularly after heavy air raids on Liverpool, Merseyside and Birmingham, and at times considerable difficulty was experienced in finding suitable accommodation for mothers and children arriving in the area. In this connection we wish to pay tribute to the excellent work carried out by the W. V.S and other voluntary organisations and persons who rendered such valuable help in providing and issuing clothing and in other ways assisting with social welfare work.

We wish to record high tribute to all householders in the district who have opened their homes for the reception of all people from bombed areas thus carrying out an essential war work of which they should feel justly proud.

The health of evacuees generally has been remarkably good, particularly when we bear in mind the "shelter life" which they have lived, in many cases for months prior to arriving in this district. Not only have they been free of infectious diseases but their general health, apart from isolated cases has been good.

The numerical position of the scheme is shown in the following table, although in comparing same some allowance must be made for persons who have been received into the district and left again between these dates, of which it would be difficult to obtain records. Neither do these figures take into account as considerable number of families who have evacuated themselves into the area and are no in receipt of government assistance.

	Evacuted Sept. 1939.	Left at 31.12.39	In district at 31. 12. 40
No of mothers and children under school age.	184	19	95
No of school children.	328	187	85
No of teachers, helpers etc.	40	23	19
Totals.	552	229	199

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.	
Live Births.				
Legitimate.	88	47	41	
Illegitimate.	6	4	2	
	94	51	43	Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population. 12.9 Whole Country 14.6
Stillbirths.				
Legitimate	5	2	3	Rate per 1000 (live & still) births 53.2
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Deaths.	89	45	44	Death Rate per 1000 of estimated residient population 12.2 Whole country 14.3
Deaths of infants under 1 year.				
Legitimate	1	1	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.				per 1000 live births 16.4 Whole country 55.0

This, Gentlemen, concludes our short Annual Report for the year of 1940 and we wish to acknowledge our indebtedness to yourselves, our fellow officials and all voluntary workers who have co-operated so well in the work of a very arduous year.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours obedient servants,

Charles H. Salt,
J.P., M.B., Ch.B.
Ian G.M. Firth.
M.B., Ch.B..

Medical Officer of Health.